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# LOVE TALE,

For the Use of the FAIR SEX.

Exemplified in the

# HISTORY,

O F

*Charlotte Marton.*

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BAILEY, PRINTER (N<sup>o</sup>, HO,)   
Leadenhall Street

(1750)



LOVE TALE

FOR THE CHOICE OF THE SEX

Examined in the

HISTORY

OF

CHARACTERS



PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAULS CHURCH-YARD





T H E

## HISTORY,

O F

*Charlotte Marton.*

**HARLOTTE MARTON**  
 the unhappy Subject of the  
 following Pages, was the  
 Daughter of a Farmer in  
 Essex: A Man of no For-  
 tune, but his Industry: which  
 had enabled him to bring  
 up in, a handsome Manner  
 three Sons and two Daughters, Charlotte was the  
 youngest, and the only one that now liv'd with her  
 Parents.

The

The three Sons were settled in Partnership in a handsome Farm near the Village where they were born, and seem'd in a prosperous Way, for they inherited their Father's active Spirit and honest Industry, *Ann*, the eldest Daughter, struck the Fancy of a rich widow Lady in the Country, who had taken her as a Companion.

*Charlotte* was about fourteen, when all the Country cry'd up her Beauty and sweet Behaviour, to the great Pleasure of her Parents; who, having provided for the rest of their Children, now pour'd out all their Care and Affection upon *Charlotte*.

But, alas! how short their pleasure! for, from his Spring of their Transport, the Beautiful blooming Daughter soon issu'd forth Sorrow! Madness! and Death.

*Charlotte* was indulged in every thing her Parents Industry could supply her with, she had good Cloaths, and visited the best Tradesmen and Farmers Families for many Miles round. Among the rest of her Acquaintance, there was one *Susanna Bind*, a Woman about thirty Years old, who was House-keeper to an old Rich Gentleman, that liv'd about two Miles off. She commanded every Thing in his House, and was more the Mistress than a Servant in it. The great Power she had

had over her Master, and the gay Manner she lived in, made many think the old Gentleman had more Service from her, than the bare looking after his Family.

This Woman having a particular Pleasurable Conversation about her, that is not often met with among the Country Inhabitants, greatly attracted the Affections of *Charlotte*. She was never easy when from her, and would make a hundred Excuses to her Parents, to get Leave to go with her dear *Susanna*.

They would sometimes deny her; not from any ill Opinion they had of the Woman, but from a fear she should be troublesome to the Gentleman, whose Servant she was. But *Charlotte* had too much Command over their Hearts, to have her Petition often Repuls'd. As *Charlotte* was pleas'd, the poor Mother rather rejoic'd her Daughter had so agreeable an Acquaintance, than foresaw any bad Consequences from their Intimacy.

Notwithstanding *Charlotte* had convers'd two Years with *Susanna*, who was a Woman bred in London, and read in all the polite Vices, she still retain'd her native Simplicity: nor could any Alteration be found in *Charlotte*'s Behaviour. She was Beauty with Innocence, Virtue without Affectation, and Modesty without Pride.

Soon



Soon after, *Charlotte*, fir'd with the fine Description *Susanna* had given of *London*, had a great Curiosity to see it, and told her Inclination to her Parents; who, proud of their Daughter, and fond of obliging her, promis'd to comply with her desire, the first time they, or either of her Brothers, could find Time to go with her.

*Charlotte* expected every Day when she was to begin this happy Journey: But as it was Harvest-Time, neither of them could neglect their Business, or think of this Frolick in less than two or three Months; which being told to *Charlotte*, it gave her great disquiet. Her Father soon perceived her Melancholy, and guess'd at the Cause; but, as he could not yet remove it by the Means she wanted, he gave her a general Leave, in Hopes to divert her, to go as often as she pleas'd, and stay as long as she lik'd, with her favourite *Susanna*.

The Grant was pleasing, but not the Thing *Charlotte* wanted to see at this Time. *London*, now had so much engaged her whole Attention; but, as it did not suit her fond Parents immediately to carry her there, she was glad to spend as much Time as possible with *Susanna*, from whom she did often hear frequent Repetitions of its Pleasures.

Whether

Whether *Susanna*, at this Time, had any Designs upon the Innocence of *Charlotte*, I can't tell; but, by what happened after, we may justly suspect her to be more guilty than Discovery has yet found her.

The unlimited Leave *Charlotte* had obtained from her Parents, almost fixed her Residence with *Susanna*. She would stay there some Times eight, ten, or more Days together with her. *Susanna* was not backward in perswading her to throw off her Melancholy; and, at the same Time, wishing they could go to London, still repeating the extravagant Delights of the Place.

*Susanna*, who was well acquainted round the Country, wherever she went was sure to introduce her Companion, whose Virtue, Innocence, and pretty Behaviour never fail'd of a kind Reception.

Among their Amusements, none seem'd so agreeable to *Charlotte* as Walking and Fishing, both which oftentimes led them some Miles from Home. In these Sallies they one Day met with a young Man; who, by his Dress and appearacce, seem'd of Family and Fortune.

Seeing two Women in a lonely Place, without any Male Companion for a Guard, it was not unnatural.

natural for him to fall into Conversation with them, and offer them the common Civility of handing them over Stiles, and Places that were incommodious.

*Susanna* soon became acquainted, and did not fail to have her Share or the Dialogue; which gave the Youth a just Opinion, that her Companion, *Charlotte*, (who had caught his Eyes) was of the same open Disposition. He waited on them Home, and took his Leave, without making any particular Advance at that Time.

Whether *Dorimant* (for that was the Name I shall give him) had whisper'd any Thing to *Susanna* as they walk'd, or not, we can't be assur'd; but it is certain from this Time she began to discourse with *Charlotte* about Love; asking her what Sort of a Man she should like for a Husband, whether she never had been in Love yet; and the like: To which *Charlotte* made such Replies, as Innocence only could dictate.

That the Readers may not be appriz'd who *Dorimant* is, in a few Words, I shall inform them, that he was a young Gentleman of great Family, and Heir to Two Thousand Pounds a Year. In this Light he was looked upon by all the Country; but, as he was some Miles remov'd from the Villages where either *Charlotte* or *Susanna* lived, they



they were quite entire Strangers to him and his Character.

Every Time they went out, *Dorimont*, who constantly watched their Motions, was always sure to meet them before they had walked far, and at every Meeting, grew more and more particular in his Addresses to *Charlotte*, but as she was quite insensible of his Meaning, he met with very cold replies.

Now the Wickedness of *Susanna* began to work. *Dorimont*, finding it impossible to gain a private Audience from the innocent *Charlotte*, apply'd himself (when *Charlotte* was gone to her Father's,) to *Susanna*; told her the Violent Passion he had entertain'd for her Companion; that he could be content to marry her, but that his Father had engag'd him to a Lady of equal Rank and Fortune with himself, that his Estate depended upon obeying his Father's Commands, and his Life was at Stake if he did not enjoy the most Beautiful *Charlotte*.

It is possible that *Susanna* might be shocked at his first proposal, and not give him any Encouragement; but, upon his telling her who he was and proving his Fortune by his immediate Liberality, she altered her Tone. — That cursed Gold! that first Engine of Mischief, to which  
B
every

every single Person adds a Wheel by over valuing it ——— Fathers actuated by this Influence, sell their Daughters! Husbands their Wives; Wives their Chastity! while each purchases, if Reason and Experience were to judge their own Misery, by the Abundance they receive; and sell for large Sums, what the rich Treasure of all the Mines, known and unknown, could never redeem. Honour! Fame! Virtue! present Happiness, and Hopes of future Bliss!

But to continue my Story. ——— A very little Eloquence, and a great deal of Money, soon prevailed upon *Susanna* to undertake a Lover's Cause. She promised to begin it as soon as *Charlotte* return'd which she promis'd at parting, should be in three Days.

*Charlotte* was too fond of the pernicious *Susanna*, to delay her return longer than necessary. ——— *Susanna* now took every Opportunity of renewing her Discourse of Love, and occasionally prais'd the young *Dorimont*, adding, *I'm sure he is in Love with one of us, and i have not Vanity enough, to believe it is me.* ——— Then would say with a Sigh, *My Time is over, yours is coming on.* ——— O, my dear Friend, this Youth has a Noble Estate: If he should take a liking to you, your Beauty would be ornamented, as it ought with rich Jewels, fine Cloaths

*a Coach; and what you'll like better than all, a pretty Fellow to adore you.*

This Discourse did not raise any Ambition in the Breast of *Charlotte*. *Dorimont's* Person had made no Impression upon her Heart, nor did she wish for any of that Pomp her Friend had so artfully describ'd. She was sparing in her Answers, and only said in General, *My dear Sukey*, you have only a Mind to try if Flattery will please me. You know 'Squire *Dorimont* has no such Inclination. Do you think a Man of his Family and Fortune, will ever cast his Eyes upon a poor Farmers Daughter? No, no, he has better Prospects: Besides, I shall never think of Marriage, 'till my Father pleases.

*Susanna* still went on with her Encomiums upon *Dorimont*; adding, She would see all the Country Louts hang'd, if a Gentleman would consent to marry her.

They continued their usual Walks, and *Dorimont* his Attendance; who had frequent Opportunities, now *Sukey* was in Secret, of talking with her Companion, who would walk on before, or lag behind on purpose. My Angel (*he'd say*) how would your Beauty adorn my Estate? Fortune, sure, first threw me in your way, to prove she had me in her Favour. Could she persuade you to



listen kindly to my Love, my constant Adoration of her Power, should convince her how much I deserve her Smiles.

This heroic Raptures were beyond the Reach of *Charlotte's* Simplicity; and, of course, could only answer them with Silence. Sometimes *Susanna* would break in; saying, what, Sir, are you making Love to my Friend? I assure you I shall be Jealous of you: But, I believe, I may be easy for I am sure you are only in Jest.

This gave our young Lover an Occasion to swear his real Affection, and to protest nothing but her Smiles could save his Life; that if she continu'd her coldness, he would give up all hopes of Happiness, and never speak to any Woman again.

This kind Talk gave great Occasion to *Suskey* to begin the Argument, when she was alone with *Charlotte*. She would say, Well it surprizes me, that a Man of his Fortune should think of such a Girl as you; and yet, I believe he's in Earnest. I never heard a Man say such moving Things in my Life. Lord, if he should die! should not you be frighten'd to kill a Man?—— I am sure I should never sleep in my Bed after it.

*Charlotte* a little alarm'd with her Friend's Apprehensions, turn'd it off with saying, Indeed I should

should be very sorry; but, depend upon it, he is only diverting himself with a foolish Girl. He thinks no more of it, after he leaves us. I don't know that (*says Susanna* :) Men have done strange Things for Love. Don't you remember the Lord of the next Manor fell in Love with his Maid; and because she gave him a cross Word one Day, he hang'd himself up, and had dy'd there, if one of his Servants had not luckily come in, and cut him down. — Did my Lord, (*says Charlotte in surprize*) hang himself? — Lord! if Mr. *Dorimont* should do so, I shall die that Instant.

Oh! oh! *says Sukey* then I find you have some regard for him! Well, well, Mr. *Dorimont* need not despair. — *Charlotte* assur'd her she was wrong in her Opinion, and would have Reason to change it very soon. *Sukey* thought proper not to pursue the Argument any farther, for two Reasons: The first, lest *Charlotte* should suspect her Design; and next, for fear she should fright her into too sudden a Compliance, and so lose the future Advantage she intended to make of *Dorimont*. These Considerations made her change the Subject.

*Susanna* took care to see *Dorimont* next Day, and told him some Part of the Conversation she had with *Charlotte*; but laid great Difficulties in the Way, and cry'd up her Virtue to him, as much as she had done his Fortune and Person to her, which added  
truth

fresh Fuel to the Lover's Fire, and made him liberal with his Purse, in order to secure this infamous Creature's farther Assistance.

Indeed *Susanna* manag'd her Cards so well, that in less than a Month's Time, spite of her Shyness; *Dorimont* and *Charlotte* grew very intimate. She lik'd his Company, did not scruple to acknowledge he was a very agreeable Man, and granted all Freedoms that Modesty would admit of.

*Charlotte*, one Day, after having been at her Father's, came to *Susanna* with Heart full of Grief and Tears, and, being asked the Cause, told her, that she must now bid adieu to all her Happiness; that her Father had provided a Place for her, which was to wait on a young Lady, forty Miles distant in the Country; adding, O my dear *Sukey*, what shall I do, when I am from thy Company? I shall die with Melancholy; and, if I dont consent, my Father will never look upon me again! Dear *Sukey*, invent something to make him change his Mind. He has given me but three Days to prepare Things necessary for my Journey. — Come, *Sukey*, think of some means to deliver me from this Banishment, and I'll adore you as long as I live.

*Susanna*, who did not want for Art, immediately set her Head to Work, and found out several Stratagems;



agements; and, at last, they fixt upon the following.

— They were to write a Letter, as if it came from Mrs. *Manley*, (so was the Mother of the Lady call'd, to whom *Charlotte* was engag'd) and send it to the Farmer: The contents should be to desire he would not send down his Daughter, 'till farther Orders. This Scheme *Charlotte* approv'd of; and *Sukey*, pretending she could not write well enough, let Mr. *Dorimant* into the Secret, who gladly undertook to prepare the Epistle.

Our young Lover was now in the highest Hopes for he look'd upon *Charlotte's* Aversion to removing, to proceed from a secret Affection she had for him, and *Sukey* took care to heighten his Transports, by confirming him in that Opinion, for which he made her a handsome Present.

This Affair being settled, *Charlotte* went Home to wait for the Event, and dissemble a chearful Obedience to her Father's Order.

This was the first Crime *Susanna* had drawn this poor Innocent into: A Crime, indeed, that generally is the first Step of all others, deceiving of Parents. When once a Girl is work'd up to Wickedness, enough to cheat and abuse those whom she ought to Love and Honour, no Wonder if she improves upon the first Plan, and gives her whole

whole Mind to the abominable Practise of Cunning and Deceit.

While *Charlotte* was employ'd at Home, dissimbling her Duty, and her poor Father and Mother expressing the real Sorrow at the approaching Parting, comforted themselves only with the common Balm of Parents. — I hope it will be for her Good; *saying with Tears in their Eyes, Dear Daughter, take care of yourself; and, if any Thing is displeasing to you, tell your Lady of it: If she don't redress you, send me Word of it, and I'll fetch you away directly, for you shan't stay to be unhappy.*

While this was doing, *Dorimant*, punctual to his Promise, sent the Letter, to the great Surprise of the old Folks, and the unspeakable Joy of the young one.

The poor Farmer blest his Stars that his Daughter was not yet set out; *saying, Poor Creature, what would she have done, had she gone there, and been rejected by the Lady, on whom I depended to provide for her for Life? — Well, well, says the Mother, don't be uneasy, Charlotte, we'll find you a better Place. Don't let this Disappointment affect you. Your Parents are yet alive, and you need not fear being taken care of. — The half taught Charlotte, with an awkward Dissimulation,*  
*replied,*

replied, My whole depeupence is upon you. I know you love me; and, I hope, my Behaviour will deserve your Affection.

The old People, charm'd with this Dutiful and sensible Answer, embrac'd and wept over her.— The Mother fearing her Daughter's unexpected Turn, began to chide her Husband for not thinking of what *Charlotte* had formerly requested, saying, My Dear, you promised she should see *London*, and I don't see that you intend to keep to your Word. Yes, yes, *said the Farmer*, I have thought of it; and, the first Opportunity, she shall go.

The Mother would have been more pressing upon this Occasion, if *Charlotte* had not broke off the Argument, *by saying*, Dear Mother, I know my Father won't forget his Promise; at least I am contented till he thinks proper to fulfil it.

Her Mother said no more of that, but desired she would go to *Susanna*, and stay a Day or two, lest she should be Melancholly at Home. This Offer was received with Joy, and away she went taking with her a fine Cake, as a Present, from her Mother to *Susanna*, and as an Acknowledgement of the many Favours her Daughter had received from her.



*Charlotte* full of Joy, flew to *Susanna*, and related her Success with her Parents, and Mr. *Dorimant* was ready with his Compliments of Congratulation. They spent the Day pleasantly; and *Charlotte*, upon this Occasion, was more in Spirits than she usually appear'd, which gave her Lover fresh Hopes, and those Hopes encourag'd him to a more open Address.

Though *Charlotte* still was strictly modest, yet she now look'd upon *Dorimant* with a more favourable Eye, on Account of the Service he had lately done in assisting her to deceive her Parents.—— Poor deluded Girl! Gratitude, in this Case, was Suicide upon her own Virtue and Happiness.

*Dorimant* continued his Visits, and every Day was inviting *Sukey* and her Friend to some new Pastime. His Complaisance and good Humour had certainly found a Place in *Charlotte's* Heart; and though she never owned even to *Susanna*, any particular liking to him, yet the pleasant Gaiety she always wore, when he was in Company, was a Proof sufficient of it. *Susanna* soon found it, and did not fail to give *Dorimant* proper Encouragement greatly to her own Advantage.

Though *Charlotte* now look'd upon *Dorimant* as her Friend and Confident, yet an Accident happened a little after that confirmed her good Opinion

Opinion, and forced her to own the favourable Sentiments she had lodged of him in her Heart.

One Day as *Susanna*, *Charlotte* and *Dorimant* were Fishing, which Diversion they often follow'd *Charlotte* standing upon a Sluice that projected some Feet into the Water, the better to command her Sport, a Piece of the Wood being rotten, gave Way, and down she fell into a Head of Water, at least three Yards deep. ——— *Susanna* scream'd, and *Dorimant* immediately plung'd in; and, catching her in his Arms with great Difficulty, sav'd her Life. It was some Time before she could speak, but the first Breath she recover'd was spent in Thanks to her Lover, who had so miraculously preserved her.

*Dorimant*, with great Tenderness, supported the faint and panting *Charlotte* Home, and *Susanna* was not backward in her Compliments to him as they walk'd; saying, If Mr. *Dorimant* had not been with us, my dear Friend would have been lost. Sure Providence sent him to relieve you. Oh! *Charlotte*, *Charlotte*; he has saved your Life at the Hazard of his own.

The Youth was not backward in his Part; for, with Extacy he burst out; crying, my Life! what is Life, after losing all I value! I declare I had rather have perished in the Water with *Charlotte*,  
C 2 than

than have survived her Loss with all her Sex to court me.

As this Accident happened upwards of two Miles from Home, it was with much Difficulty they reached it; for the Cold, the Fear, and hurry of Spirits this Escape had thrown her into was attended with frequent Faintings, so that they were obliged to stop sometimes for half an hour, before they could recover her

At length they gained the wish for Port, where *Charlotte* took leave of *Charlotte*, in the tenderest terms and warmest Wishes for her Safety; with an earnest promise, to return next Morning and enquire after her health.

*Susanna* did not fail to improve this opportunity to *Dorimon*'s Interest; always buzzing *Charlotte*'s Ear, the great Love he must have for her, to venture his Life to save her. *Charlotte* confessed the Obligations she had to him, but was unwilling to engage in any affair of this Kind without her Father's Knowledge, but promised to ask his leave the first Time she was able to get Home.

This proposal did not relish with *Susanna*; for, as the Youth had no intentions of marrying her, it would no Way advance his hopes to have her Parents acquainted in this affair, for his was a Project



ject that few Fathers came into. *Susanna* turned her off this Design, by saying if her Parents knew it, they would immediately acquaint old Mr. *Dorimant* thereof, who undoubtedly would oppose it being a very proud Man, and having already engaged his Son to a great Fortune: No, added she, it must be done in private, and kept a Secret till he comes to his Fortune, for should it be known before it might ruin him.

*Charlotte* listened to this Argument, and own'd there was reason in what she said; at the same time dropt some Hints, that she had no Aversion to this private Marriage.

*Susanna* immediately flew to *Dorimont*, and acquainted him with what *Charlotte* had said. The Youth started at Marriage! Why, said he, this is doing nothing, for you know I can't marry her; my Fortune is at Stake: Besides, were it at my own Command, I should not care to disgrace my Family, by mixing my Blood with a poor Country Farmers.

What a false Honour is this? how unjust to Nature, not to allow innocence a Virtue, the shining parts of human Kind, to hold Rank with gaudy Titles and acquired Fortunes?

*Susanna*

*Sukey* now devised a Master-piece of Wickedness ——— Cant you, said she, get some poor Man near your Size; who, for Money, will be faithful to your interest? Doubtless said he; but what of that? Why, reply'd *Susanna*, as I will contrive the Affair to be done in the Dark, he shall be marry'd to her, and, after the Ceremony, you go to Bed with her, which she'll not scruple, while she looks upon you as her lawful Husband: And as the Affair by her own consent, is to be kept private, you may have your full Swing of Pleasure; and when you are tir'd, you have nothing to do but disown her for your Wife, and i'll prove the Marriage to another Man.

In the hurry of this Plot, they had forgot one principal Character, which was the Parson, for they were not so hardened in Ill, to suppose any Gentleman of that Function would disgrace the Office he was employed in, or have any Hand in so wicked a Design.

*Susanna* soon removed this Objection, by saying to *Dorimant*, I have an intimacy with a young Fellow, who has been a Servant in the Family I now live in, but was discharged for Drinking too much of my Master's Wine.

He is very Poor, and must have Starved, did not I privately convey Food to him every Day. He is sensible

sensible of the Obligations he has to me, and I am certain for a trifle of Money, he will undertake this Jobb. Do you provide this Husband, I'll prepare *Charlotte*, give my sham Parson proper Instructions, and meet you in the Evening.

Thus did these two Fiends contrive, with great Pains, the Ruin of an innocent Creature, whom they ought to have defended. *Susanna*, should have been her Guard, as she had put her Trust in her and confided in her Friendship; and *Dorimant*, as he was of that exalted Species called Man: But one, for the Love of Gold, gave up her Honesty; and the other, for a momentary enjoyment, sacrificed his Honour.

*Susanna* ran to *Charlotte*, told her, Her Lover in all the Agonies of Despair, had just been with her, to let her know that unless she consented to marry him in private the next Night he was undone; for that his Father had absolutely sent for the Lady he intended for his Bride; and the Wedding was to be in three Days. *Charlotte* flurry'd at this News, and frightened at the Thoughts of losing the Man she now really loved, in her confusion consented to the Proposal, and begged her Friend to let him know her Resolution.

She returned with great Compliments from her Lover, and a Pair of Diamond Ear-rings, which  
*Susanna*



*Susanna* made him send her as a Present. This Liberality the more endeared her to her *Dorimant*, and she expected in a few Hours, to be the Happiest of her Sex.

The Villains were properly instructed, and stood ready at Twelve o'Clock for the Word from *Susanna*, who was to let them into a little Parlour near the Hall when all the Family were in Bed.

First she led *Charlotte* to the place who was frightened at being in the Dark: But *Susanna* soon made her easy, by telling her a Light might betray them. Some of the Servants that lay over the Stables fronting the House, might see it, and thinking the Family at Rest, imagine it was an Accident of Fire, alarm the House and betray the whole Affair. This Objection got over she let in Mr. *Dorimant*, the new made Gentleman and Parson. *Dorimant* pressed her Hand; and hurry'd the Parson to perform his Office, slip't aside, and put the Fellow he had hired in his Place. The Ceremony over *Susanna* let out the two Villains, and locked the Door? then conducted *Dorimant* and *Charlotte* to her own Bed-Chamber, which was prepared for their Reception,

Early next Morning *Dorimant* was let out at the Garden Door, and *Suskey* went up to congratulate her Friend upon the Wedding; *Charlotte* declared  
her

her Fondness for her Husband (as she called him) and wished impatiently for Night, when she might again enjoy his Conversation. He was obstinate to his Word, and repeated his inhuman Transports over his poor Victim.

This went on for a Week, and *Charlotte* grew happier and happier every Day; but, poor Girl! it was not to last. The Youth's inclinations began to abate, and often disappointed his amorous Meetings. ——— Would sometimes stay away two days and then come and stay an Hour and be gone again. This Alteration greatly affected *Charlotte*; whom *Susanna* comforted by saying, Perhaps he can't leave his Father, he must be cautious, or the Thing will be soon blown.

*Charlotte* had never since the Accident of falling into the Water been at Home. Her Parents had sent several Messages to enquire her Health, which she dispatched with different answers: Some Times she was too weak to be moved; another Time that she was much better, and would see Home in a Day or two. In this artful Manner had she staid upwards of three Weeks, which Time was spent in concluding her Marriage, and enjoying her dear *Dorimant*.

Her Father uneasy at her long Stay, and being apprehensive something worse had befallen her than

D

what

what she had related, resolved to visit her himself, and learn the real Reason that detained her. He arrived just at the Time that she was at the Height of her Affliction, for she had not seen *Dorimant* for seven Days; and notwithstanding she had sent several Messages to him by *Susanna*, (who indeed never carried one, but invented evasive Answers to keep the Discovery as long as possible) could not obtain a meeting.

At this critical Time her Father came, when Grief had deprived her of Art; and meeting with Neglect where she expostulated Love, had made too much impression upon her tender Heart to let her conceal the real cause of her Affliction.

The Father had little Trouble to make her to tell him all the Truth; which she did in Terms so moving, that the Tears fore-run his Words:

At length he burst out; O Daughter! Daughter! is this the Consequence of all my indulgence, to dispose of yourself for Life without consulting me, O cruel Child it will break your Mother's Heart! Then turning to *Susanna*, cried, You wicked Woman! could you, that have more Years, and ought to have better instructed her, could you encourage her in Disobedience.

*Charlotte*



*Charlotte*, here fell upon her Knees, and begged Forgiveness for her Rashness; adding, I am sure when you know my Husband, you will not blame my Choice, for he's a Gentleman of Honour and Fortune, and tho' he has been absent from me a Week, which occasioned the Grief you found me in yet I cannot accuse him of unkindness, since he is under his Father's Direction, and his Commands may have sent him to some distant Part, where he has no Opportunity of letting me hear from him: Besides as we were Married in Private, a Caution of its being known may prevent his writing.

The Farmer was not unacquainted with the Name of *Dorimant*, for his Birth and Fortune made him well known all over the Country. *Charlotte* had no sooner mentioned him as her Husband, but the Father in Astonishment, cried out, Child it is impossible, Mr. *Dorimont* married my Daughter! A Gentleman of his Rank condescended to take a Farmers Daughter for his Wife! *Charlotte* insisted on the Truth of what she said; and added, *Susanna* was a Witness to it.

*Susanna* had stole out of the Room, and *Charlotte* missing her ran out to seek her, in order to support her assertion.

*Susanna*, not caring to come to an immediate Tryal, had hid herself; and, while *Charlotte* was hunting for her, the old Man, suspecting some Fraud, mounted his Horse and went directly to *Dorimont*, and very luckily met with him. He told him his Business, and begged Pardon for the abrupt Intrusion; saying, 'As my Daughter, Sir, has told me you desire to keep the Marriage a Secret you may depend upon it, it will be as safe in my Breast as in your own.'

*Dorimont* with an artful Surprize, reply'd, My honest Friend, you have mistaken the Person. I neither know you nor your Daughter, and, as to Marriage whenever I enter into that State, there will be no occasion for Privacy: On the contrary, I hope all the Country round will be at the Celebration of it.

The poor Father shock'd at this Answer, was incapable to make a reply; and, before he could recover himself, *Dorimont* mounted his Horse and rode away. The Farmer followed in hopes of a farther Explanation, but *Dorimont* refused to hear him, and left the old Man to return with all the Agonies an unhappy Father could feel.

At his return he met with *Susanna*, and told her what Mr. *Dorimont* had said: Who coldly replied  
Indeed,

Indeed, Sir, I am sorry you troubled the Gentleman about it. If I had known your Resolution of going there I would have prevented it.

Miss *Charlotte* of late has been much disorder'd in her Head, and has often told me she was Married to a great Man, and should be a Lady. I have strove to divert her from such Whimsies but in vain, for she still insists upon it, and no reasoning can drive her from it.

*Charlotte* who had listened to this Discourse rushed into the Room; crying out, O thou wicked Woman can you deny that I am Married to Mr. *Dorimant*! was not you Witness to it! *Susanna*, with her former Tempers, said, See, Sir, it is as I tell you. She cannot get this Marriage out of her Head.

O! cried the Farmer, my poor Girl is mad, what shall I do! I'll have her cured if all I can raise in the World will purchase it.

*Charlotte* struck to the Heart at the Cruelty of her Lover, the Grief of her Father, and the vile Treatment of her Friend, ran out of the House; and in Despair, threw herself into the very Water, where *Dorimant* once saved her Life.

Her



Her Body was found a few Days after by some Persons that were Fishing and sent home to her Father, who ran mad at the sight; and in a few Days died.

Nor did the Mother long survive him. *Susanna* fearing the Truth might come to Light ran away, and has never since been heard of.

The Facts in general, were proved by the Fellow who acted the Husband in this iniquitous piece. Touched with the fatal Consequence upon his Death Bed he declared the whole, but too late to revive the Murdered *Charlotte*, and revenge the Deaths of her and her Parents upon the Authors of it.

*Dorimant* did not long survive the discovery; whether pricked by Conscience or worried by shame I know not, but it is certainly true he died delirious.

I hope poor *Charlotte's* fate will be a Warning to all Parents, not to suffer their Children to engage in too great Intimacies, even with their own Sex. For Youth, when they once take a liking, will sooner be guided by what they call a Friend, than a Parent, and listen too often to voluntary Advice from an intimate with more Confidence, than to the fond Remonstrances of a Father. And if this Friend, so trusted, should happen to have any Taint

Taint in her Morals, or Blot in her Reputation,  
her Pupil will catch the one, and of course share  
the other

F I N I S.

